

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-03

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LIMDISFOR GELB ONLY FROM BARTHOLOMEW

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: SCHEDULING ITEM, AND FOLLOW-UP ON FY 78
DEFENSE BUDGET
FIRST PARA IS PIGGY-BACK ITEM FROM CHURCHILL, REGARDING
YOUR ON-GOING TRAVEL PLANS. AT SECOND PARA BEGIN FOLLOW-
ON TO REFTEL WITH MORE ANALYSIS DONE IN ISP (MATHISON/
GROSE) WITH DCA INPUT (RAMEE). POINTS COVERED HERE ARE
BASED ON ITEM I GOT FROM STONE. FIRST CABLE ON THE BUDGET
INDICATED THAT IT LEAVES A WIDE MARGIN FOR MANEUVER IN
SALT. IN THE FOLLOWING, HOWEVER, YOU WILL SEE GROUNDS FOR
POTENTIAL CONFLICT BETWEEN ONGOING AND PROJECTED PROGRAMS
ON THE ONE HAND, AND SALT, ON THE OTHER. A LOGICAL
QUESTION IS WHETHER US COULD HOLD OFF TESTING ON BOTH
SOFTWARE AND MK-12A TO: (1) MAINTAIN A CLEAR ARMS CONTROL
OPTION; AND (2) ADD BARGAINING LEVERAGE. I NOTE FURTHER
THAT ARBATOV IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH PAUL DOTY SEEMED
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MUCH MORE SENSITIVE TO EFFECTS OF THE MK-12A PROGRAM
THAN TO THE MX, WHICH IS STILL A DRAWING-BOARD
PROPOSITION, AFTER ALL.
1. RE LONDON ARRANGEMENTS. R.W. APPLE REGRETS HE MUST
CANCEL MAY 25 DINNER INVITATION AS HE MUST BE IN PARIS
WEEK OF MAY 23. WISHES INVITE FOR LUNCH IN PARIS MAY 26.
ACCEPTANCE WOULD REQUIRE SHIFT TO MORNING RATHER THAN

AFTERNOON FLIGHT FROM LONDON TO PARIS MAY 26. SUGGEST YOU CALL APPLE IN LONDON. CHURCHILL WILL FOLLOW UP ON THIS WITH YOU IN LONDON.

2. MINUTEMAN III IMPROVEMENTS.

A. PROGRAM STATUS: ADMINISTRATION REQUESTED DOLS. 263 MILLION FOR NS-20 GUIDANCE SOFTWARE PACKAGE AND MK-12A WARHEAD. HOUSE AND SENATE APPROVED FULL AMOUNT. SEN. MCGOVERN INTRODUCED AMENDMENT DURING FLOOR DEBATE THAT, WHILE CONTINUING R&D ON THE NS-20 AND MK-12A, WOULD HAVE BLOCKED THEIR DEPLOYMENT UNLESS THE PRESIDENT CERTIFIED THAT THESE IMPROVEMENTS WERE ESSENTIAL TO NATIONAL INTEREST AND SALT NEGOTIATIONS. THE AMENDMENT WAS NOT VOTED UPON. CURRENT DOD PLANS CALL FOR EQUIPPING OF ALL MM-III WITH NS-20 GUIDANCE PACKAGES DURING FY 78 AND FIRST DEPLOYMENT OF MK-12A WARHEAD IN FEBRUARY 1980. FLIGHT TEST PROGRAM FOR NS-20 WAS INITIATED IN JUNE 1976 AND IS SCHEDULED TO BE COMPLETED IN NOV. 78; FLIGHT TEST PROGRAM FOR MK-12A WAS INITIATED JAN. 77 AND IS TO BE COMPLETED JUNE 79.

B. SALT IMPACT: AS YOU ARE AWARE, IMPROVEMENT PACKAGE WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH MOSCOW COMPREHENSIVE PROPOSAL TO PROHIBIT MODIFICATIONS OF EXISTING ICBMS. ALTHOUGH THERE IS STILL TIME FOR THE ADMINISTRATION TO TERMINATE MM III IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, CRITICAL QUESTION APPEARS TO BE WHETHER SOVIETS WILL BELIEVE OUR PRONOUNCEMENTS ON THE SUBJECT, PARTICULARLY IF TESTING PROGRAM PROCEEDS MUCH
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FURTHER. ASSUMING USSR POSSESSES VERIFICATION CAPABILITY COMPARABLE TO US, SOVIETS MAY HAVE LOW CONFIDENCE IN VERIFYING WHETHER WE IN FACT TERMINATED KEY ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM. LIMITATIONS ON FLIGHT TESTING, E.G. TO CONSTRAIN MARV ACCURACY, APPEARS TO OFFER A BETTER HOPE FOR WORKABLE CONSTRAINTS.

3. MARVS

A. PROGRAM STATUS: DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS INCLUDE MK-500 EVADER COMPATIBLE WITH TRIDENT I MISSILE AND AN ADVANCED MARV TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM NOT DIRECTLY LINKED TO ANY MISSILE. HOUSE AND SENATE HAVE APPROVED AMOUNT REQUESTED BY ADMINISTRATION FOR BOTH PROGRAMS. (FLIGHT TEST SCHEDULE IS PROVIDED IN SECRETARY'S BRIEFING BOOKS.)

B. IMPACT ON SALT: CONTINUED FLIGHT TESTING OF EVADER MARV (FIVE TO DATE) COULD FURTHER COMPLICATE POSSIBLE LIMITS ON MARV FLIGHT TESTING, IF SOVIETS INSISTED ON

RIGHT TO MATCH US TESTING. TESTING OF ADVANCED MARV IS
NOT SCHEDULED UNTIL JULY 1979, BUT DISTINGUISHING
BETWEEN EVADER MARV AND ADVANCED (TERMINAL HOMING) MARV
BY NTM COULD BE QUITE DIFFICULT. US COMPREHENSIVE PRO-
POSAL WOULD IMPACT SUBSTANTIALLY ON BOTH MARV PROGRAMS
(FLIGHT TEST QUOTA) IF NOT PROHIBIT THEM OUTRIGHT AS ICBM
IMPROVEMENTS. CHRISTOPHER

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